



LARC



Volume 55, Number 4

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC..

APRIL 2015

The President's Soapbox

As I write this note, I realize that my year as your President has drawn to a close. I have really enjoyed our time together, especially the group activities. I know we will have more opportunities to help out as a club, where our numbers give us opportunity to serve where we might not as an individual.

I also want to thank those who volunteered to serve as officers this past year. Jess Gillion, KF5LUL, Vice President - who redefined the flashlight for us, Archie Hill, W5AG, Treasurer - who looked after all the money and gave classes to Scouts in the freezing cold, Sandy LeBlanc, KE5KJF, Secretary - who documented all we did and gave near perfect minutes to our LARC Editor/Publisher/PIO - Herman Campbell, KN5GRK, who is the lifeblood of our small group, Kendra Wilson, KF5FYS, Youth at Large - whose voice along with her sister Abbi KF5BEW, kept people tuning in on Thursday night and contributed to our great Field Day score. Also, the Board Members, James Williams, KF5RBW - who gave us a great antenna demo, Archie Hill, W5AG, Paula Romero, KF5CNS - who ran the sweet shop along with her team, and Glenn Thibodeaux, KF5FNP - who keeps us focused on our ham activity and emergency preparedness. I also want to thank Charlie Morrison, trustee of our repeater for his efforts to provide the club with a great resource for our ham activities. Thanks also to Mark Saltzman, W5GTI, who hosts the famous AARA Monday Night Net, keeping us informed on the radio and sometimes dispensing a little humor and wit. Thanks also to all who contributed to our ham activities this past year.

We will certainly have many of the same events as last year and I want to encourage as many of the club as can to participate and share with the club and community the joy of ham radio.

I wish the new officers of our AARA ham club the best in the coming year. Don't forget the annual banquet next Thursday, where we will install the new officers for the coming year. It should be a great night. Come prepared to share the most significant ham radio happening of the past year for you. Did you finally get that magic antenna installed? - Did you work that rare DX you always wanted? - Did you finally make a contact with a satellite or talk to the space station? Please let us know.

Larry Leblanc KE5KJD

GRAND PRIZE



WINNER

Shown left to right: Galen Wilson KF5BET (Hamfest Co-Chairman), Arnold Lemaire KE5JXC (Grand Prize Winner), Phil Parton (Kenwood Factory Representative), and Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP (Hamfest Chairman).

The Kenwood TS 590 SG Grand Prize was donated to the AARA by Kenwood and we sure would like to say **THANKS** to Kenwood and Phil for this donation.

Photo by Greg Dolan K5LFT

AARA April General Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2015 @
6:00 PM - Red Cross Building,
101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA.

This will be our "Annual-After-The-Hamfest- Banquet". Members are asked to bring a covered dish, the club will furnish the main entry and drinks. We will install our new officers and discuss the outcome of the hamfest.

Come out and enjoy the food and fellowship.

NO VE Testing at this meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER**GENERAL MEETING**

April 2, 2015 @ 6:00 PM
 Red Cross Building
 101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA
NO VE Testing Tonight

AREA HAMFESTS

See page 4

Local 2-Meter Nets**Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
 147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
 145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
 145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Youth Net 7:00 PM
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2015 - 2016

President - Mark Saltzman W5GTI
 w5gti@cox.net
Vice Pres. - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
Secretary - Abbi Wilson KF5BEW
Treasurer - Archie Hill—W5AG

BOARD MEMBERS

Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP
 Ric Wallace - KF5KEL
 Tom Dischler - W5OHJ
 Kendra Wilson - KF5FYS

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

NEWSLETTER EDITOR &**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Herman Campbell - KN5GRK
 337-234-5364 kn5grk@lusfiber.net

MARCH 2015 AARA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2015

CLUB MEETING:

- The AARA meeting was called to order by President Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD.
- All said the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. 25 members and 3 guests attended the meeting.
- Larry LeBlanc, President, called the meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves, as well as giving something interesting they did with Ham Radio.

Minutes: The February minutes were submitted by Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, secretary, and they were posted in the March LARC. The minutes were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Report is not published in the LARC; any member wanting a copy can contact Archie W5AG.

New Officers:

President – Mark Saltzman W5GTI
 Vice President – Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD

Secretary – Abbi Wilson KF5BEW

Treasurer – Archie Hill W5AG

Board of Directors – Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Ric Wallace KF5KEL and Tom Dischler W5OHJ.

The new officers will be installed at the Banquet on the Thursday, April 2, 2015, after the Hamfest. The Banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Red Cross building. On motion by Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, seconded by Tom Dischler W5OHJ the Club voted to provide the meat for the Banquet and members will bring side dishes or desserts.

Hamfest: Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP Hamfest Chairman and Galen Wilson KF5BET Hamfest Co-Chairmen for the Hamfest which will be held March 20-21, 2015 at the Rayne Convention Center. Pre-registration is \$4.00 and you get 1 ticket and registration at the door will be \$5.00. The deadline for ordering crawfish is March 13, 2015.

We will have the same caterer as last year. Crawfish will be \$24 for 4 pounds and if the price goes down you will get more. Only those pre-registered are guaranteed crawfish.

Chris, the caterer, donated 1 crawfish ticket. The free order of crawfish was won by Lisa Sorrel.

Ric Wallace KF5KEL, volunteer co-coordinator, is doing a great job signing up volunteers.

Weston Hebert KB5WI will be running the Bingo on Saturday. He will be needing help setting up and taking down.

We will have tables for Go-Kits and QRP rigs.

Mark Saltzman W5GTI and Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP will put up the signs on I-10.

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD will make the First Aid signs. Paula Romero KF5CNS and Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF will have First Aid kits.

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP will speak to Paul McCasland about the PA system.

Antenna Trailer: Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD and Steve Webre AF5VR, installed in the flooring for the antenna trailer. The antenna trailer will be ready for the Hamfest. After some discussion it was decided to get a jack and a spare tire for the trailer.

Red Cross Building: Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP discussed the need to help repair the Red Cross Building. Some of the items that we are considering are redoing the kitchen which will include a new sink and dishwasher and cabinets, clean the place up, and repair the ceilings once the roof is fixed, etc. We will set up a radio station for Disaster Management.

Repeater in Lydia: We have been offered to take over the 500 ft. tower and 145.41 repeater. The repeater will be evaluated. After some discussion, on motion by Tom Dischler W5OHJ, seconded by Steve Webre AF5VR, the Club voted to take over the repeater. Charlie Morrison N5WE will be the trustee and we will not sign any contracts.

On motion by Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, seconded by Tom Dischler W5OHJ, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted,
 Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
 AARA Secretary 2014-2015

The **LARC** is published monthly by the:

Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building, 101 North Pat Street, Scott, LA



Northeast Louisiana Regional Hamfest

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015

Time: 8:00 AM - til

Where: Barak Shrine Temple
6620 Frontage Road
Monroe, LA

Directions: Take I-20 (Exit 120) then East on Frontage Road just past Sam's Club about 1 mile. Look for Barak Shrine Temple on right.

Talk-in: 146.85 (no tone)

Registration: \$6 with one drawing ticket; \$12 with 10 drawing tickets. Additional bundles of 25 drawing tickets can be purchased for \$20.

Events: VE Testing

Forums

Hourly Door Prizes

Drawings (at 9AM, 11AM, and 1PM a BaoFeng UV-5R will be one of the door prizes)

Tables for selling: \$10 each
(register for tables at:
<http://w5la.net/tables>)

Dealers & Vendors:

Palmetto Antennas

MCM Computers

JMR Sales

Grand Prizes: Drawing at 2 PM

1st Prize: Icom IC-7200 HF/6M

Transceiver

2nd Prize: Icom ID-51A VHF/UHF

Handheld

3rd Prize: MFJ 259C Antenna

Analyzer

Website: <http://www.w5ea.org/>

73, Jim Ragsdale - W5LA
Hamfest Chairman

9th ANNUAL PINEY HILL ARA HOT DOG SOCIAL

When: SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015

Where: Cook Park

Ruston, Louisiana

Time: All Day

Admission: Free

Talk-in: 147.120 PL 94.8

WE WILL ALSO BE SELLING CRAWFISH TICKETS @ \$15.00 PER TRAY WITH CORN @ POTATOES - Please purchase your tickets on or before APRIL 20, 2015.

Check website for more details and Prize List at:

<http://www.phara.us/>

AARA Antenna Trailer Project

Report by Larry LeBlanc - KE5KJD

Our AARA antenna trailer has served the club well over the years. Thanks to the initial design by Danny Daigle, KD5JSM, and John Martin, KA5BSE (SK), and Thibb's Trailers. Because of the high insurance cost of the towing vehicle, AMOS, we decided to see if we could make the antenna trailer self-contained to be pulled by club members' vehicles.

In June of 2014, the members of the AARA voted to use funds from AMOS insurance (~\$700) to upgrade the antenna trailer so that it could be used independently of AMOS. After Field Day 2014, the club again voted to use the unused funds (~\$300) allocated for the event to be added to the antenna upgrade project. Another \$700 is now available since the AMOS insurance came due in February. The main constraints placed on the design were:

1. Put decking on the trailer to improve safety in setting up the tower.
2. Make larger pads for the ground support arms to stabilize the antenna trailer.
3. Use mechanized method to lift the tower because it took too long to get the tower up and the winch arm was directly under the tower, which is a safety issue.
4. Provide storage on the antenna trailer to transport the setup cables, tools, and accessories.
5. Provide storage for the antenna and mast on the trailer.
6. Look at providing space to carry the generator and gas can on the trailer.
7. Fix weak points on the tower support.
8. Put safety strips on the trailer and support arms.

The proposed concept was to have everything needed to put up the antenna at a site by hooking up the trailer to a suitable vehicle with a trailer hitch and brake/turn light hookup. This does not include the radios, which will be carried in the towing vehicle.

Some preliminary fixes were made by Glenn Thibodeaux in 2013 to the tower retaining collar, to make it hinged so it would be easy to keep track of the parts. Also, gussets were installed on the mast straps to strengthen those locations. A comprehensive list of ideas was recorded to guide the upgrade.

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Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD set up a Trailer Design Team which included Jess Gillion KF5LUL, Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Nick Romero KE5MWX, Danny Daigle KD5JSM, Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD. Additional volunteers to help during the upgrade were James Williams KF5RBW, Cathy Daigle KD5TJZ, Paula Romero KE5MWX, Derek Meche KF5VZW, and Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF. Nick Romero volunteered to head up the team. After initial assessments, we came up with an estimate of \$1900 to complete the project, with possible cost savings on some items, depending on the approach. So far the expenses total about \$960, with a few more purchases planned.

We tested using a drill on the existing manual winch, which did not work out. We also installed a winch donated by Fred Marshall and it promptly broke on testing. We selected by vote the material to use for the decking, selecting treated lumber. We purchased a 5000 lb winch with 1/4 inch wire cable to lift the tower. It required an adapter plate to fit on the existing mounting platform, which was provided by Miguel Morrogh, our host for the 2014 Field Day. He also did the welding of the angle brackets to hold the antenna element storage tubes. The winch was mounted and tested, with some bouncing problems when lowering the tower. This was fixed to an acceptable level by removing three layers of the winch wire rope and using an additional pulley to reduce the speed of the tower.

The lumber was purchased, delivered, and put on the trailer with the able help of Steve Webre, AF5VR, a new ham with experience with machine shop tools and previous experience decking trailers. The storage boxes were purchased from Home Depot and bolted to the trailer decking. The PVC pipe was picked up in Rayne with end caps. U-Bolt holders were fashioned from threaded rods and used to hold the tubing in place to angle iron welded to the trailer structure. The end caps were trimmed to fit the tubing.

Continued on page 4 columns 1 & 2 & 3

AARA Antenna Trailer Project - continued from page 3

Upon raising the antenna, we decided to include a safety switch to disable the winch when the tower was raised in place to avoid stressing the system if an inexperienced operator held the switch on too long. After all the work, the cables and antenna elements were stored on the trailer and it was used for the AARA hamfest in Rayne.

A platform was built to hold the battery and wires that power the winch.

We still have to complete the testing and understand the proper operation of the trailer under various operating conditions, but we have come up with the following safety rules to be followed by anyone using the antenna. If you are using it for the first time, have someone who has done it before go through with a demo. It is very important to put people safety first when using the antenna.

1. When hooking up the antenna to the trailer hitch, make sure the latch is fully activated holding the ball in place and hook up the chains to the support bars on the hitch. Make sure the electrical wires are not tangled in the chain. Check tire inflation on both the antenna trailer and the towing vehicle.

2. Make sure you have the proper connector to connect the trailer lighting. Test left and right direction signals and brake lights. **DO NOT** pull the trailer without operational brake and turn signal lights!!!

3. Make sure that all on board storage boxes and battery are properly locked down.

4. Make sure that the retainer collar for the tower is tightened down.

5. Make sure the pad handles are in place and the safety pins are holding the support arms so they will not slip out while on the highway.

6. When placing the trailer and before lifting the tower, make sure the ground is level and can support the trailer.

7. Check to make sure all pins on the pulleys are in place.

8. Unhook the support collar and swing it out of the way of the lifting tower.

9. Make sure all support arms are extended and pinned in place. Remove the wood plates and put under each jack for extra support. Jack up each end of the support arms until the trailer is level in all directions. A level is provided in the toolbox on the trailer.

10. Have everyone stand away from the trailer before starting the lifting. Make sure no one is in line with the cable or the tower, either in front of the trailer or in the rear. (In case the cable, the pulley, the winch or the bottom collar fails.)

11. Do not put your hand on the winch, or the cable at any time.

12. The person doing the lifting should stand several feet to the side of the trailer throughout the lifting operation. Wear a safety hat just in case

something comes loose during the lift. Stop the lift a few degrees from vertical and pulse the switch for the final vertical positioning. Do not run the winch more than 30 seconds at a time, either raising or lowering the tower. Stop for a full minute each time to allow all components to cool down.

13. Have ONE person put the safety pin at the bottom of the tower pole. Do not stand in line with the tower or the cable when inserting the pin. Keep your hand away from the tower base at all times. As always, wear a safety hat.

14. After the pin is in place and verified, one person at a time can get on the trailer to use the manual winch to lift the tower to its final height. Don't forget the hat!

15. Bring down the tower to a safe height in the presence of high winds. (>25 mph)

16. When lowering the tower, stop at about a 30 degree angle and use short pulses to bring the antenna down to a level where the mast and antenna can be removed. Then bring the tower down until it gently settles in the cradle. Remember to latch the collar to the cradle before moving the trailer.

17. Retract the support arms and put the safety pins back to secure the arms.

Hopefully these changes will allow our club members to have more access to an important club resource.



BEFORE



AFTER

Antenna trailer before and after the decking, toolbox, winch, and PVC protective tube for the Yagi antenna were installed.

MARCH 2015 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
AARA Monday Night Net	4	72	Ø	170	W5GTI Mark
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	4	35	Ø	65	N5LRZ Ray
Acadiana ARES Net	4	21	Ø	60	N5LRZ Ray
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	4	21	3	120	N5LRZ Ray
Youth Thursday Night Net	3	48	Ø	87	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

"The time is near at hand which must determine whether AMERICANS are to be free men or slaves"
—George Washington

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Mark W5GTI, the net control station, for the AARA Monday Night Net had suggested that the net be rotated between three different area repeaters. Here is the April 2015 schedule:

DATE:	TIME:	REPEATER:	PL TONE:
April 6	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5
April 13	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5
April 20	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5
April 27	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8.

The April 2015 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website at:

http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/files/monday_net.pdf

Notice: Mark W5GTI announced again that he would continue the AARA Monday Night Net contest for 2015.

The top 10 check-ins on the Monday Night AAARA Net during 2015 will get their call/name entered into a drawing and a winner from the top 10 check-ins will receive a Chinese import dual band handi-talkie paid for by Mark W5GTI. **HOW ABOUT THAT?** So be sure to check into the net and thanks to Mark in keeping the net active.

March 2015 VE Test Results

Raymond N. Wilkinson of Baton Rouge, LA passed his Tech and received the call KG5GKI - Donna Wilkinson of Baton Rouge, LA passed her Tech and received the call KG5GKH - Zachary Danjean of Gretna, LA passed his Tech and received the call KG5GKE - Ian Madray of Lafayette, LA passed his Tech and received the call KG5GKG - Priscilla Cooley of Scott, LA passed her Tech and received the call KG5GKJ - John D. Sorrel JR. of New Iberia, LA passed his Tech and received the call KG5GKF, John Woods KG5FMP of Broussard, LA and Kathy Van Winkle KG5FRS of Walker, LA both upgraded to General.

VE's were: Greg K5LFT, Ric KF5KEL, Mark W5GTI, Galen KF5BET, Archie W5AG and Tom W5OHJ.

AARA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

4/1	W5GTI	MARK
4/6	KE5JXC	ARNOLD
4/7	KB1NRO	MICHAEL
4/8	KF5BET	GALEN
4/13	N4ELM	DAVE
4/15	KG5AYK	ROBERT
4/16	N5DAL	MIKE
4/16	KF5KEL	RIC
4/18	KF5WP	ALBERT
4/22	KF5SEQ	JARED
5/6	W4JHC	JOHN

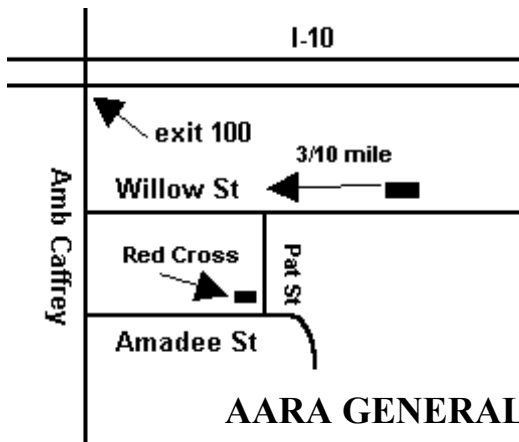
Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

HAPPY EASTER



Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING

April 2, 2015 @ 6:00 PM

Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA

NO VE Testing Tonight - Hamfest Banquet Meeting

Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA

Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE



Carrot Cake III

<http://allrecipes.com>

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 eggs | 3 cups grated carrots |
| 2 cups white sugar | 1 cup chopped pecans |
| 2 teaspoons vanilla extract | 1/2 cup butter, softened |
| 2 cups all-purpose flour | 8 ounces cream cheese, softened |
| 2 teaspoons baking soda | 4 cups confectioners' sugar |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 1 cup chopped pecans |
| 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon | |

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan.

In a large bowl, beat together eggs, oil, white sugar and 2 teaspoons vanilla. Mix in flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Stir in carrots. Fold in pecans. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven for 40 to 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely.

To Make Frosting: In a medium bowl, combine butter, cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Stir in chopped pecans. Frost the cooled cake.



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245